

U. S. NAVAL MISSILE CENTER
POINT MUGU, CALIFORNIA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
17 November 1961

Dr. Joshua Lederberg, Chairman
Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical School
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I have heard, via a rumor, that you have been, or are, entertaining the idea of establishing an exobiology institute in conjunction with NASA, and are looking for a proper site.

Point Mugu, California offers a unique site for an exobiology institute for the following reasons:

1. It has a natural lagoon on which we are now building a porpoise and, hopefully, marine molecular biology laboratory.
2. It is government property and is part of the Pacific Missile Range where missile and space vehicles are routinely launched.
3. A molecular biology laboratory, staffed with biochemists, biologists, and physiologists, all at the independent investigator level, now exists at Point Mugu. We have contact with industries (J.P.L., Northrup, Lockheed, Ford Aeronutronics, U. C. at La Jolla, U. C. at Santa Barbara, Cal-Tech, etc.)

Charlie Metz and Albert Tyler have recently visited our laboratory. I suggest you contact them for their opinions of our "environment."

I humbly suggest that you visit our establishment, see the natural lagoon and accompanying ocean, the missile launch area, and finally our laboratory. My particular laboratory is always open to you.

Sincerely yours,



William C. Gillchriest
Head, Bio-Physical Chemistry
Life Sciences Department